NOTES FROM BERLIN.

A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT MAN-HOTELS-POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS-AIR-THE GER-MAN EMPEROR AND MARK TWAIN.

Berlin, May, 1893. There are many more things I want to say about Germany, but for the present I forbear. Many sides of German life,-of so much as on comes in contact with during a three weeks be left untouched, including the fascinations of Dresden, with its fairylike beauty as you enter it by night, and the brilliancy of Hamburg. That is a name which since last year sounds ominiously in the ears of the world, but Hamburg is, nevertheless, delightful, with its lakes in the heart of the town, its architecture, its opera, its docks, its canals, its gardens, and other charms, among which I put high up a midnight voyage on the Alster Binnen and through remoter and narrower waters of which we could not even conjecture file name. But I suppose I must presently get back to England and English topics. Before I do that I will collect into a column one or two of the notes lying before me, and I wish above all to offer my homage to a truly great man. I do not refer to Prince Bismarck, or Professor Virchow, or Herr Ahlwardt, or the Emperor, but one whose greatness differs from all these, and whose power, perhaps, exceeds that of all of them together: I mean the hall-porter,not any one individual, but the type.

The hall-porter has of late years, and indeed for a good while past, become one of the most important functionaries anywhere to be met. He has in Germany a jurisdiction of his own, and an authority in matters concerning the traveller stretching far beyond that of the concierge in France or the humble Boots in England. His very appearance inspires awe. He is chosen, firstly, for his size, and martial bearing, and capacity for putting on side. It is thought neceseary that the guest should understand at first sight that he is in presence of a superior person; and he does, and the longer he stays the more he is convinced of it. True, this gorgeous creature takes off his gold-laced cap to you, and takes your orders, and sometimes obeys them. But you are perfectly aware that this is only in the way of business, while as a man he feels himself, and is, your master.

He meets you at the door of the cab on your arrival; assures you that the rooms you have telegraphed for are ready, a matter about which he knows nothing, and when you are once inside the gates, pays your cabman double his fare. has a legion of little boys under him, with silverlaced caps, which they touch to the traveller time he enters or leaves the hotel, and every time he comes within view, and when there are no travellers about, they touch them to each other to keep their none too clean hands in. They are the satellites and slaves of the hall-porter, and are sent flying for cabs when you want a cab, and occasionally when you do not. They bring your letters to your room, or, as often as not, other peoples' letters, and yours go to the other people. He has another legion of porters under him; real porters these, who carry your trunks upstairs and down, and put them on top of your dressing-bag, an article against which porters have a distinct animosity. Sometimes he has an under hall-porter; sometimes the two are in partnership and leave you in doubt which is the real boss, so that, if you are weak-minded. you pay both when you go away. The newlycaught American has a habit, derived, I think from his native land, of paying hall-porters and other tyrants in advance, or at intervals during his period of servitude. It is a mistake, but I know it is useless to tell him so. It will cost him form, probably a telegraph uniform, but it looked much more, and he will be much worse looked after. Like the great general he is, the hall-porter

throws out skirmishers, one of whom used to come daily to our rooms to ask which opers or theatre he should get tickets for that evening. The tone of the skirmisher implied that, if w had any self-respect or any right to be staying at that hotel, we must be going to one or the other, and that it was a moral obligation to take tickets of him, and pay for them whatever he and the hall-porter between them might deterand the half-porter between them anger determined and the half-porter between them anger determined to be the proper sum. Your errands and people. In Dresden, with a quarter of a million, ville, who is the chief representative of the Court commissions will, in any case, be transacted at a there are ten telegraph offices. In Hamburg, 2 of Paris in this country. The duel originated commissions will, in any case, be transacted at a specific suburbs, has a popular with some slighting remark made by the Count, but for which, including its suburbs, has a popular with some slighting remark made by the Count, but as an old tool. It may be a specific which figure if you intrust them either to the city which, including its suburbs, has a popular with some slighting remark made by the Count, but as an old tool. It may be a specific which the purple of the blackmailers succeeded in ball-porter or to the skirmisher. You will find tion of ever half a million, the number of tele- which led M. Floquet to nublicly denounce him as that opera tickets supplied to you in this way are that opera tiexets supplied to the design of a letter comes to more 401. These figures may or may not give an action in the neighborhood of seventy—fought on the cab that a railway guide is not to be had under fifty per cent beyend its published price, and that the Postal Union rates for telegrams have been suddenly inereased. There is in this Berlin hotel what i called a telegraph office. It is, so far as I could make out, a branch of the hall-porter's depart ment, and messages are sent out by hand to some real office, or not sent out, as the case may be always at an extra charge, unconfessed but uni-

I came finally to think that the hall-porter was, in fact, the proprietor of the hotel, and the superior officer of it. The manager and secretary, and other high personages are but his subordin ntes. He keeps an account of his own against you, and sends it to you independently of the hotel account; or, if he wants ready money, exacts payment on the spot. This, I suppose, is when his operations on the Rourse have gone This rule is not universal. If, for example, you engage a carriage of him by the day charge a higher price, the item is transferred from the porter's bill to the hotel bill. You feel, however, that for all these little irregularities you are amply compensated. You have been guided and guardiauled on your way: counselled if not commanded; cheered, instructed, amused. You have been in the presence of a truly great man; "lived in his mild and magnificent eye." and you feel that the handful of silver he expects is none too great a reward for the privilege of having

His duties and functions are, on the whole, known him more than any single human being could be expected to discharge well. It is doubtful whether Napoleon would have been a good hall-porter. He loses his head sometimes, and when you ask for ten marks' worth of foreign stamps gives you not always quite the full value for your ten marks, which, however, he pockets. When the luggage of different travellers has to be sent away from the hotel, he is expert in getting rid of it, but it is no part of his duty to see that the traveller gets his own luggage. If he gets the right number of pieces what can it matter whether they are his or another's? The hotel is no longer encumbered, and the cabman divides his surplus fare wish the porter, and everybody is happy except the traveller, and why should he expect to be

His happiness consists in reflecting that he has happy? made others happy; that he has feed the waiter who brought him his coffee in the mornings, the chambermaid, or perhaps two chambermaids, the porter who brought up his trunks, another porwho carried them down, a third who put them on the cab, a fourth who looked on while it was loaded, a fifth who unstrapped his trunks and blacked his boots, the uniformed conductor of the rickety elevator, the head waiter in the restaurant, in addition to regular tips to the netual walter; four small boys in silver-laced caps. I nen he gives all the money he has left to the hallporter himself; who receives it with an injured look, as if the sum were wholly insufficient to relieve a starving wife and children. The manager comes out to wish you, with a low bow, a good journey, and you rather wonder whether he too expects to be tipped. I believe the inexperienced American has offered him money before now Experienced or inexperienced, there is one thing he will never succeed in, and he will learn after a while to abandon the attempt to adjust his givings to the expectations of the donce. And being an American, he may soothe his conscience, if he here one, with the reflection that he undoubtedly and invariably gives too much.

It is another peculiarity of hotel life in certain cities of Germany, that the restaurant, or dining-

room, is a thing apart from the rest of the estab-"Under partly distinct management," said the notice in the hotel at Hamburg. I shall never cease to regret that I did not copy out extracts from this and other similar Notices to Guests in other hotels. They gave one a new and larger conception of the resources of the English language in German hands, and are good en to serve as appendix to "English as she is Wrote." But I postponed the duty, and a duty postponed ing as you go. It costs you more in fees to waiters, but, on the whole, you pay less, as we found out afterward in Dresden, where the other system tels are not cheap,-not those in large cities. Berlin is, on the whole, dearer than Paris. which Americans will be grateful. The price of reaches 5,000 and even 6,000. Notwithstanding to which I have lately been indebted for what the French delight to call "hospitality." Hospitality authorities about the matter, and the question is that is paid for roundly is none the less, to their also to be brought before the Chamber of Depuminds, hospitality.

Both in the hotels of Berlin and in the restaurants, some of which are very good, the system that of live stock now prevailing, and to be conprevails of breakfasts, dinners and suppers at a fixed price, which is also a moderate price. The cooking is better than it used to be, and might and an indispensable necessary of life. be better still. North Germany has never been the home of high art in the kitchen, and is not now. The taste for strong flavors and for strong tity, and for sweets at old times, and for many portion of ordinary street traffic has produced a other things which imply an imperfectly educated palate. But in the hotels which look to foreign- The cause of the strike is the heavy price deers for support, an attempt has been made to notions. If you have a taste for local color and should ask for sourkrant, you would probably be owner is so small as to be inadequate to keep body turned out of the hotel. But you are suffered to and soul together. Notwithstanding this, popular drink beer without remonstrance. It is too cheap sympathy is far from being with the cabman, who to be profitable to the hotel, but cheap or deat, is an object of bad feeling to the ordinary citiis always excellent, and to the German, as I have said often, is a factor in the constitution of the brute, cruel to his horse, insolent to his fares, may be abolished some day, with or without a of driving, and ever ready to swindle foreigners revolution. Beer never. There cannot be a revolution without somebody to make it.

"The best service in the world," cries the enthusiastic German if you mention Posts and Telegraphs to him. It may be the best. It is hardly the quickest; and in these hurried days it is difficult to separate speed from the idea of excellence in the dispatch and delivery of letters and telegrams. The cable service is certainly not what it ought to be. The Anglo-American people have beguiled the German Government into giving them a monopoly, and with a monopoly the public com monly goes to the wall. The European service is better, the domestic service perhaps best of all cheap and accurate, if not over quick. There are, no doubt, statistics, but subject to correction from statistics, I should say the Germans do not use the telegraph very freely, and are not vert impatient when they do use it. A telegraph office s not always easy to find, or, at any rate, not always round the corner. The head telegraph office in Drosden is in a back courtyard up a verlong flight of stairs. When you have climbed the stairs you are in the presence of one clerk, whose duty it is to receive dispatches. I admir I never found many people sending them, and perhaps the one clerk is enough. The clerk was in unit very military, and his manner, though civil, was military. The head office in Berlin opens on the street, and is a buster looking place. But there, as in Dresden, telegrams seemed to me to be dealt with in a spirit of leisureliness. And if you asked ne where the branch offices are, or any one of them, except those in the railway stations, I could not tell you. They do not store you in the face as they do in London. In all Berlin there the last week has been the duel fought by M. are but fifty-eight telegraph offices, and Berlin is Floquet, the ex-president of the Chamber of Depua city containing a million and three-quarters of ties, and the gray and austere Count d'Hausson tion of lover half a million, the number of telegraph offices is fourteen. In London there are graph offices is fourteen. In London there are a coward and a liar. The two old men—both of the line of telegraph. But so far as they go they are accurate,

Before I end I wish to after a tribute to the air of North Germany: the more due because sellow MM. Roissy d'Anglas and Manjan, while those tricity, ozone, and I know not what other vital of the Count were the Duke of Fitziames and paid. It contains in surprising quantities elecproperties in addition to exygen; combined in a manner which is medicinal and inspiriting. Late n the summer Berlin is, no doubt, hot, but until then its atmosphere is of the most bracing kin! I have known it at most seasons of the year. The vast plain amid which the city stands has nothing to offer the traveller in the way of the picturesque. It is the fashion to speak without enthusiasm of it, and of all North Germany, as flat It is flat, and so is the sea, but both alike are

One last word on the Emperor, a last word consisting of two pieces of testimony. Said a student of German politics, with reference to the

"No doubt the Emperor is a danger to Ger many, and Socialism is a danger. But, on the whole, Socialism is a greater danger than the Em-

Things must have gone very far before such a comparison as that could establish itself in the Teutonic mind. If it is really to be a struggle between the two, one must, I support, wish the

Emperor to win. The second testimony concerns itself with an American. It appears that the individual who, easte himself from any appearance of participato the Emperor, best sums up America, is Mark Twain. He has never liked anybody of any nationality so well as the author of the "Innocents Abroad," whose popularity in the country Le caricatured is not centined to Imperial circles, but When Mirk Twain came to Berlin is general. last winter, the Emperor commanded that he should be presented to him forthwith. The presentation took place at 6 o'clock in the afternoon, and the interview between these two great men lasted until midnight. His Majesty was delighted with the American humorist, and with hi stories, and with his manner of telling them, a manner which allows ample time for appreciating the humor of them. The listener who expects these narratives to have a point may be sometimes bewildered by the multitude of details, and uncertain about the point after all. The Emperor was not so unreasonable as that. To him the stories were all good, and all had as much point as they ought to have.

His Majesty's conversation with Mr. Clemens lasted, as you perceive, six hours. Never before had he been known to give more than an hour to any human being; officers of the headquarters staff excepted. If Mr. Runyon should by and by retire, and if President Cleveland should by that time have used up all the survivous of the Confederate army, and there remained merely Northern candidates for office, he might make the German Emperor happy by appointing Mark Twain Am- be has discovered that champagne is a splendid tinues. All day long you may see laborers at bassador. It is always thought well that the Ambassador should be sympathetic to the Sovereign to whom he is accredited, and there is often a comic side to diplomacy. G. W. S.

DEATH OF " MOTHER SHIPTON." From The London Globe.

Mother Shipton is dead, or at any rate the real author of her famous prophecies is no more. In other

words, the book-selling world has to deplore the loss of Charles Hindley, who long ago confessed to the He wrote a good deal in one way innocent imposture. or another, partly to the press and partly in books IN THE PARIS WHIRL

THE CAB STRIKE-M. FLOQUET FIGHTS A DUEL-THE ORLEANS PRINCES-AN AMUSING LAWSUIT.

The two all-absorbing topics of the hour are the great cab strike and the price of butcher's meat, is a duty undone. There are advantages in pay- the latter assuming the proportions of a question of national importance. As most of the readers | Germain and her volume of naughty songs, bris-France this year has destroyed nearly all the prevailed and where the very maderate price on fodder crop and rendered the feeding of cattle the bill of fare became less mederate on the bill wellnigh impossible, at any rate to the small which was afterward presented and had to be farmers. The consequence is a glut of live stock paid. Whichever rule prevails, the German hose in the market, some idea of the extent of which may be gathered from the fact that whereas the In average number of cattle received at the Villett both places they have lately adopted a plan for Market does not exceed 2,500 a day, it now your rooms includes fires, lights, and service; and this, the retail butchers maintain the price of many travellers to indulce in Parliamentary lan- kinds of reasons for doing so, without succeeding guage has disappeared. This is far from being in convincing anybody that they are justified I speak only of the dozen hotels therein. As they absolutely decline to listen to ties, with the object of forcing the retail butchers to lower the price of their meat proportionate to tent with moderate profits, instead of seeking to

As to the cab strike, it leaves the streets wonderfully quiet, but subjects us all to much inconvenience. There are nearly 6,000 of these contrasts prevails; for spices in too great quan- fineres laid up, and the absence of so large a procalm which is not without its agreeable side manded by the cab owners for the lease of the conform to foreign notions, and even to French | vehicle and the horse from the cabman, who complains that the balance left him after paying the In the majority of cases he is an uncouth universe. The paper constitution of his Empire devoid of even the most elementary knowledge and unprotected women. In many instances, he been reduced to the position of cocher de fiacre by victous conduct. He is, therefore, far from being in a position to arouse the sympathy of the Parisian population, who are likely to turn a deaf ear to his protests against the ever increasing number of omnibuses, trainways and bicycles, which, he claims, interfere with his trade.

is now in full swing, and apparently proves as attractive as ever to people in search of summer night amusement. Preparations are also being madwill, as usual, be marked by a review of the troopforming the Paris garrison at Longehamps, while at night-time all the public gardens and squares including the Pare Monceau, the Champs Elysees and the Gardens of the Trocadero, will be splendidly illuminated, al fresco balls taking place or the Square de La Republique and other similar Whether or not the spaces in the metropolis. President will be able to attend the review remains in doubt, as he is still quite ill. His condition has called attention to the fact that in case of his being incapacitated by his illness from the performance of his duties, there is no one legally apowered to act on his behalf. Neither the President of the Senate nor the President of the Chamber of Deputies is invested with any executive power, and it is regarded as probable that cure the passage of some measure providing for a contingency of this kind and for the election of a vice-president of the Republic

Before I end I wish to offer a tribute to the air adjourned for dejenner to one of the restaurants General d'Abzac, brother of our Consul-General is New-York. M. Floquet has been known as a hot-headed man and as something of a fire-gater ever since his sensational duel with General Bonlanger, in which, though an inexperienced swordsman, he wounded his adversary so dangerously that for a time the General's life was despaired of. But that the Count d'Hassonville should have taken part in a duel as a principal excites almost as much surprise as if the venerable Cardiand Archbishop of Paris had made his debut, pistol

in hand, on the field of honor.

The young Duke of Orleans, dissatisfied with the manner in which Count d'Haussonville is conducting the monarchical campaign here, has just started a new paper here called the "Alert, which is destined "to give expression to the ardent, generous and patrictic sentiments of the young princes." I hear that Prince Henri, the son of the Dake of Chartres, is associated with his consin in the enterprise; but this I doubt, as it is notorious that the two young men have been on terms the reverse of amicable since the by when the Duke so heartlessly filted his innece, the sister of Prince Henri. Meanwhile, the Count of Paris, as if to thoroughly discuss tion in his son's venture, has caused it to become known that he is hard at work preparing a new and enlarge! edition of his dreary work on was published a few years acto. The mere annonneement of the fact has proved to be sufficient o still further increase the dissatisfaction on the part of his followers, who complain bitterly of his lack of energy and of the heaviness of his character, which can only be described as the very antithesis of everything French.

News has just been received here from the intimate friend of the Duke of Orleans, the your Duke of Uzes, who has been for the last eighteen months travelling about on the west coast of Africa, north of the Congo. His sojourn there is not altogether voluntary, for, before leaving, he got into all kinds of trouble here, so much so, in fast, that his mother, the Duchesse, was obliged the purpose of having him declared legally irrefortune, which, notwithstanding its extent, he had already seriously impaired by his extravaremains to be seen. Inasmuch as the main burden single star steals slowly into view-shy herald and theme of the Duke's last budget of letters of all the host of heaven. determined to run no risk of catching the fever times that labor of irrigation proceeds until that he keeps himself in an exhibitrated condi- late hour of the night, and all around you opious draughts of champagne.

Countess de Durfort, whose salons in the Fauthe most exclusive and strait-laced in Paris. The astonishment of the La Rochefoucaulds, the Montesquious, and of the other aristocratic guests who attended may be imagined when they learned

that the programme, instead of being of the classical and even sacred character, was altogether of the cafe-chantant order. The star of the entertainment was Yvette Guilbert, and she sang a large part of her repertory, including her popular new song, "Les Petits Vernis." Then Mario Legault, of the Vandeville, came forward and recited Ganville's "Rendezvous," and Dasy's "Couturiere." After her, Angele Legault, of the The atre Lyrique, sang "Ohe, Mama." The appear ance of Yvette Guilbert in the Faubourg St of The Tribune are aware, the abnormal drouth in | thing with doubles entendres, was rightly considered as one of the most fin de steele occurrences of the season, and society has not yet finished talking about the extraordinary entertainment given by the old Countess.

The Countess de Dufort is one of those old women who would seek to endeavor to postpone being forced by age to let down the social sceptre which she so gracefully carries by sympathizing with the young. In this she has been so far eminently successful, as in her salon a the charge for "bougles" which has caused so meat at its ordinary high rate, putting forth all large number of the fairest daughters of the noble Faubourg have made their debut in society. She is an aunt of the Princess de La Tour d'Auvergne. The Prince de La Tour d'Auvergne is an amiable nonentity, whose only absurdity is to claim for himself the name and title of a Prince de La Tour d'Auvergne and to be a descendant in a direct line from the Duke Godfrey de Bouillon, the leader of the Crusaders and the conqueror of the Holy Sepulchre. As a matter of fact, the only authentic La Tour d'Auvergnes are quite extinct, and the person who now bears that title is merely the descendant of a lawyer named Latour, who lived in Auvergue and who coolly altered his name into that of La Tour d'Auvergne, his son in the same manner assuming the title of Prince. That the present bearer of the title finds people willing to concede to him the dignity and rank to which he has no real right is in a great measure due to the popularity of his wife and to the tre social influence of her aunt, the Countess de Durfort. The Princess is most kind and hospitable, and several of the magnificent jewels that she is accustomed to wear belonged to her uncle, the illustrious Archbishop of Bourges. the splendid emerald nestling in her corsage being in fact the stone which once adorned the

archieptscopal ring. An alarming accident happened the day before yesterday in the Cercle de la Rue Royale. Shortly after 3 o'clock a tremendous crash was heard is a man who has seen better days, and who has in the baccarat room, and on investigation it was discovered that an enormous sheet of glass, forming part of the ceiling, had become dislodged and fallen, carrying with it and smust ing an immense bronze chandelier. Fortunatel the mishap occurred before play had began, else a considerable loss of life must have resulted, as toward 4 5'clock the table upon which the The Neuilly Fair, which opened on Sanday last, chandelier and the glass fell is surrounded by a dense crowd of the members, engaged either in play or in witching the game. The accider seems to have been caused by the intense heat of the ironwork of the glass roof.

A most amusing lawsuit has just taken place here, which has terminated in the sentence of here, which has terminated in the sentesces of a gang of blackmailers to terms of imprisonment ranging from ten to two years. It seems that some time ago the Vies-Admiral Count de Marquessae, in writing to a person with whom he had no busiless to be in correspondence, referred to the Minister of Marine, his superior officer, as "une vieille bete," which may be translated as "an old fool." This, as well as two or three other letters of the same tenov, fell into the hands of a gang of blackmailers, who ferthwith proceeded to extert money from the old Admiral under the threat of publishing the contents of these letters in some of the Opposition papers. The Admiral, who held at the time the position of prefect or mayal governorion papers. The Admirs, who have papers in the position of prefect or may all governor meral of the maritime district of Lorient, regal that if the letters containing the amount mentary references toward the Minister were lished he would inevitably lose, not only him her, but also his prespects of premotion. Neath of the part of the side of the side of the part of at he coins period for assistance, and ne-peral to the period for assistance, and ne-loge he had made a clean breast of the affa-the Minister of Marine, who was one of old messenates and who took the matter is great loke, being especially tokled at the a that the Admiral, who is a Grand Office the Legion of Honor and renowned the statetest disciplinarians in the cy, had found it so expensive to

A RAMBLE IN CALIFORNIA.

MOUNTAIN DAYS AND DREAMS. TERM A STATE CORRESPONDENT OF THE PROBUSE.) Mentone, Cal., May 30.-There is a chance i the valley as the summer deepens. The best, by day, grows more intense. The wild flowers ar less abundant. The crange blossoms graduall disappear. The roads are deep in dust. ises like a herce flame, and holds its course with inrelenting vigor through a perfectly cloudles sky. The broad expanse of morriand, covered with brush, shrivels in the heat. Chirping sounds, made by unseen insects, are continual. Every place i nfested with flies, and the scattering of water the chief occupation of the inhabitants. The heat I am assured, will increase, and the mercury will sometimes stand at more than a hundred degree It is only toward sunset and in the night that life becomes comfortable. As the sun sinks the air grows cool, and about the middle of the night the wind is cold and often is fall of monaing sounds-as if a storm were coming; but a storm comes. On the lofty summits of Graybaci and San Bernardino a little snow still lighters but, all around, the mountains, veiled in a thin blue Lize, are wearing their mantle of summer rest. The birds are nesting, and are less vocal than they were of late-the blithe little mealow lark being almost the only one who continues to sing, and even he is seldom heard. Just now it happens to be the period of the full moon, and that planet, rising above a line of cloven and treeless hills, much toward the south, casts a soft splender over the whole valley, concealing its every blemish and making it like a lake of silver, dappled with little islands, serene within its mountain girdle of granite and ebony.

It is for sunset and evening, accordingly, tha we wait. The parched and shimmering landscape waits for them also, and will welcome their approach. As the long shadows begin to slope to the costward, the hollows among the foothills and the ravines in the mountains grow dark and cool. Then the trees that fringe the sinuous water courses sway and murmur in the rising to summon a so-called "conseil de famille" for treeze. The light grows softer and fades away. A thin gray gauze creeps along the mountain sponsible and incompetent to administer his side, and the moorlands beneath are darkened Soon it is evening, and over the desolate plain floats the mournful call of the owl, while far gance. Whether his travels have improved him overhead, in a pale blue sky, without a cloud, a

is that he has got to the end of his supply of Amid these scenes, and notwithstanding the champagne and demands a fresh shipment, the rigors of heat and dust, the soundless industry matter remains open to doubt. The Dake says of the inhabitants of this region steadily confever preventive, and has admirable restorative work in the fields-directing and superintending qualities when a patient is convalescent, and from the flow of the water, which, at intervals, is delivered upon all the orange farms, and which is their safeguard and nourishment. Some times that labor of irrigation proceeds until a late hour of the night, and all around you may discern stars of light—the lanterns of these toilers of the orchard—flitting about in the wide, remote and dusky plains. At all times a picture, this landscape is especially pictorial under a starlit sky or in the silver lustre of the moon—for then the encircling mountain range is one vast mass of conjured and broken shadows, while its high, serrated outline stands clearly revealed against a dome of sable, and the engirdled plain seems a glimmering waste the news which has come from the Congo, it delivered upon all the orange farms, and would appear that the Duke is so thoroughly which is their safeguard and nourishment. Some tion bordering on inebriety by frequent and may discern stars of light-the lanterns of these Quite a novelty in its way was the musical and wide, remote and dusky plains. At all times literary soirce given the other evening by the old a picture, this landscape is especially pictorial bourg St. Germain are celebrated as being among | the moon-for then the encircling mountain range

of sea, with here and there a craft at anchor, and solitary beacon fires on its distant, unknown shores. Persons who chiefly value the pleasures of society and the pursuits of active life would find theniselves lost in such a place as this; but the mild that loves to brood upon Nature and is willing to learn the lesson of personal insignificance may here find serene pleasure and lasting benefit.

W. W.

THE SIAMESE CAPITAL,

A CITY OF STRANGE CONTRASTS AND MANY PHASES OF LIFE.

eresting to the observer than the capital of Siam, which now bids fair to be the scene of war. Indeed, the whole country is full of pictpresque contrasts, in the strange mingling of civilization and barbarism. The latest products of scientific invention are found side by side with the most primitive and antiquated manners and customs. Imagine, for example, the stable of the sacred white elephant lighted with electric lamps! That is a specimen of the grotesque mixtures of new and old to be found everywhere in Siam. It is so with the people themselves. Most of them know nothing but the traditional lore of Siam. Yet ever since the present King seended the throne as a lad, in 1868, Siamese students have visited England, have been edu cated at Oxford, have joined the bar, and have been trained for the navy. English and Danish officials have been employed in the Siamese service, in the education of princes, and in the telegraph and postal offices. The King, a man of liberal views and fine disposition, has recognized and encouraged in every way the intro luction of Western advantages, and in some espects the Siamese might hope to emulate the ivilization of Japan. But, perhaps from climatic. perhaps from racial, idiosyncrasy and intermarriage with Chinese, they are hindered by a conervatism of indolence which must always preent their acquiring the full benefits of Western culture. The vencer of civilization in dress and limbits they quickly acquire, as they do European languages, but in their own homes they, as Bacon has it, "revert to their customs " Bangkok, the capital of Siam, has been termed

very unhappily the Venice of the East. Perhaps is regards smells (in which alone there comparison between them) it would have been uster to call Venice the Bangkok of the West. But even then un outrageous affront would have been offered to Venice. It is useless even to attempt a description of the smells of Bangkok. To do so would require a quarto volume, to cataogue them would require the services of an analytical chemist, and to read the account of them could leave the reader in blissful ignorance of his subject. The streets are the repository of every form of refuse, and are never swept or leaned by hand of man. It is appalling to contemplate what must be the death rate in a city shabited by 350,000 to 600,000 persons, espeially in periods of great cholera epidemics, such is attend a failure in the wet seasons. Eastern frouths are frightful calamities. A weak mon soon means insufficient rainfall for the rice crop The cool season, November to January, is followe

by the terrible hot season, during which never lrop of rain can be looked for. The river Menam Mother of Water"-polluted by every concein ble or inconceivable abomination of animal and vegetable matter, the rotting corpses of men and areasses of beasts, is very low: it is, moreover. tidal at Bangkok, and its pestilential waters, with their litdeons flotsam, are driven back every high tide by the waters of the sea and rendered dangerously brackish. The stream is the color of pea soup. Fill the jar and stir the water with a piece of alum, and in ten minutes it will be as lear as the purest spring water; all its suspended matter will have sunk to the bottom into a thick gray stratum. But woe to the stranger mad enough to taste the glassy poison! first say his prayers, and then "Goodby." If it e considered that the natives drink this fetid liquid without any such precautions as even the learing alum, it may be imagined what a cholera' They die by hundreds daily. authreak means. The vultures and pariahs cannot devour the bodies fast enough; the river cannot carry them down mainst the tide. A truly terrifying picture is that of an Eastern city in a cholera epidemic. As a matter of fact, cholera is always an endemic. and so loses its terrors for the apathetic native

Pangkok itself lies thirty miles up the Menam. At Pak-Nam (river mouth or rather water mouth) s the custom house, and here the traveller catches sight of the first specimen of Siamese architecture in the phra'ch'dee, or spire of a temple erected in the middle of the estuary. As one vances up the river native roofs and the spires f other temples peep out among the palm orchards until, having rounded Bangkholem, the towering phra'ch'dees of Wat Chang and Wat Phar'koh burst into sight. Here, too, at Bangkholem, one cets his first explanation of the comparison (as as been said, a very absurd one) with Venice. Here he sees the banks of the broad river lined with floating houses and pile houses. The pile dwellings of neolithic man in Europe must have resembled these. Thatched with palm rattan, built on high piles griven into the soft alluvian river bed, these floating houses accommodate a ery large part of the population, and before the use of carriages and carriage roads they contained still greater part. They extend for several at on the numerous klongs or canals which are at for draining purposes into the country. Here narket. Everything is to be bought. Birmingam ware, lamps, plate, housewifery, water-jars, tiger-skins, carpenters' tools, in short, whatever is to be purchased in the city bazaars is also to se bought in the floating shops. Nor are there wanting women pedlers, who, in their little canoes r sampans, paddle everywhere crying fruit, cakes, setel and other refreshments of a painful aspect, and doing, apparently, a good trade from mornme to night. This river life is a very curious study, and no one knows Bangkok proper who has not studied it. A strange medley! Here lie the to atmen of a prince asieep on a rickety landing-stage awaiting orders. Here are two nondescripts the river to their temple. Here are four or five

the river to their temple. Here are four or five chinamen bathing with the greatest deceny and decorum, and here huge cargo-lighters laden with rice slowly forge their way down to steamers at the whirtyes.

Decidedly the river life of Bangkok is that to be most especially studied. For it is distinctly unique in the East. Visitors—and, on the whole, these are fairly nunerous from those who visit Singapore—tob often neglect the river, and devote too much of their stay to the society of European residents ashore. Legations, clubs, hotels are to be found everywhere, and the sights of the city on shore can be easily seen in two or, at most, three days. But he who would study the best aspect of native Siames. If the should stick a good deal to the river—the Vections who would stick a good deal to the river—the Vections and, in facts, also unique and most interesting to be seen ashore, from the European cemetery (sum soft favang. "Gattlen for planting for eights," to Wang alton the palace of the last Second King, an office now abelished. Of the loss said—and smelled—the better. But once inside the city walls interest begins, within five helps and the city walls interest begins. Within five helps and the city walls interest begins. Within five helps and the city walls interest begins. Within five helps and the city walls interest begins. Within five helps and the city walls interest begins. Within five helps and the city walls interest begins within an and said that new or reaches the Royal Palace, the Foreign Office, the King's Gartiens, open to be public on Saurdays: the stables of the white elephants, the Temple of the Emerald indeals, with its statue of Buddah, made of a single emerald two feet in height. Caustic critics early in the palace of the five halp and the city of the city proper, the country of the city of the city proper, the season of the city proper, the season and the city of the city proper, the season of the city proper, the season

SOUTH SEA FOLK. PIRATES AND VILLAGERS OF NEW-GUINEA

VILLAGE WHERE THERE ARE TWO MEN CHIEFS BUT THE WOMEN RULE THE ROAST.

Melbourne, May 10.-The Queensland Islands of

Salbai, as well as Danan and Boign, are in a state of terror over the Tugere pirates, who are reported to be making their semi-occasional visit into that ter-But little is known of these people, and ritory. although investigated by the well-known explorer Douglass, scarcely any definite information is obtain able even at this late day. From meagre reports There are few cities in the far East more inwhich have been received from time to time this much is certain, that they are both warlike and numerous, They come around the coast from the West in large canoes without outriggers, before the northwest wind and return with the advent of the southeast. They are far better warriors than the native tribes in the Queensland possessions, and their arrival has created general consternation. Dozens of coast commun ties are reported to have broken up and wandered away in small parties into the forest to wait for the arrival of the southeast wind, which generally marks the departure of the Tugeres. These pirates rarely camp on the same ground a second time, last season camping near Kadawa, where a European traveller named Martin was killed by a Tugere. It appears that Martin, who was a trader, was caught near their camp while in search of oddities. Their present camp has been located near the mouth of the Kawa Kussa River, and the length of their sojourn will depend principally upon their success in pillaging villages. It has been impossible to determine the exact number of fighting men of the Tugeres but according to Captain Strachan, who was attacked by them some years ago, there are not less than 1,500. Captain Strachan was attacked on the Maikussa River. He and his men fired on them wit Winchester rifles at a distance ranging from 150 to 200 yards. In his report the captain states that it was an utter impossibility to intimidate them, and he was compelled to abandon his vessel. Tribes in this part of the possession are seriously opposed to settling down until they are relieved of the terror caused by these invasions. It has been about definitely decided that these plrates come from Dutch New-Guinea, and it is more than probable that they will remain along the Maikussa or the Wasikussa rivers until late in July. Since many of these river tribes appear to be broken up by the Tugeres, foreign interference may be asked in order to prevent the ction from becoming a complete desert.

In view of their depredations, a brief review of the Tugeres will prove of interest. As a body of men they are as fine as any tribe to be met with in any of the possessions. In one band on the Upper Fly River there are men as muscular and equally in appearance; but those of the Tugere are far the best of the tribe. Many are of a light brown color. They are armed exclusively with bows and arrows. They propel their own canoes, which are exceedingly clumsy in build, being from 35 to 40 feet long and without outriggers, and propelled by means of poles made from the widest of the sago palm-leaf. Paddies are rarely used and are almost unnecessary. In appearance the Tugeres are anything but prepossessing. They wear the tiara, which is frizzled, plaited into great number of small cords, with a kind of ledge, ach cord falling down on the neck, and at the lower extremity the ledge is wound around to form at the end of each plait a little ball. This gives a man an appearance as though he carried on the sides and ick of the neck a bunch of grapes so large and heavy as to make it almost difficult to turn the head. The forehead is high and well formed, the eyes being a hazel color. In the ears are large rings of the wire feathers from the wings of the cassowary. Their noses are profusely ornamented. A hole is made in each from above downward into the nostril, and into this bone are put bamboo, bone, etc., the lower end coming out at the nostril, so that the bamboo is thus fixed in a perpendicular position. one man were in this way two leg bones of a pig. each one fully three-fourths of an inch in diameter and about seven inches long. Some wore bamboos of similar proportions, others bamboos an inch in diameter on each side and about two inches long, some again had cassowary claws stuck into these holes with the points directed toward the eyes. In nany cases between the holes for the reception of this nasal jewelry there are on each side of the ridge of the nose perpendicular slits about a half inch long. Many wear braids, while around the neck are some times suspended a half dozen pigtalls, bits of human nesh, probably of those killed by the wearers, dried and tanned, or perhaps several strings of dog's or On the breast are cross-belts of fibre or Job's tears, and around the waist are generally two girdles, one fastened with a shell that acts as a button. On the arms and legs are rings of plaited cane or mat work. But the most notable of all is the fact that none of the Tugeres are tattooed.

An interesting village in the vicinity of Alpiana Baipa, which has two annexes of about thirty houses and beasts of as many people as Aiptana. Balpa boasts of two chiefs; one, Abiri, attends to the civil functions; while, the second, one Hola, is the war chief. The most marvellous thing, however, in connection with the reign of these two chiefs is the fact that neither of them have anything to say in the presence of the women of Baipa, who run suit their fancies. There are few commu nities where women take so much upon themselves as here, their power being equally as great as that of Maino in Alpiana. The climate in this section s most delightful, and deaths are less, in proportion, then in any other portion of the Guineas. domestic arrangements and habits of the people are of still greater interest than their intertribal relations. Each family has its recognized head, and each its own dwelling. The young men who are not married are supposed to occupy common quarters, under the general control of some man advanced in years. With this exception the people live in familles. During the night there is much noise in the village after all have retired to rest; husbands and wives squabble, wives beat the children, and pandemontum reigns supreme. In the morning the women sweep out the house and clean the ground about it from the traces of pigs and other animals. cook breakfast, boiling in narrow-mouthed clay pots the tare or bananas for the morning meal. cooked this is removed thto a wide-monthed shallow clay dish, and coccanuts grated on the top. Mean-while the man or men of the family have gone to the "strangers," or clubhouse, where they sit on the veranda talking and smoking. brought to them, and each takes from the little net bag which is carried on his arm a small shell spoon with which he eats his food. Afterward the wife returns for the empty dish. The wife and children eat their meal upon another veranda, and what remains is given to the pig.

Afterward cusband and wife get ready for work

in the garden. The man starts with a spear or club, while the wife follows with several het bags hanging down her back from the head, with which to bring home food and firewood. About three in the afternoon they begin to return, the man bearing his weapons and the woman carrying food and firewplaying chess violently on the platform of a floating house. Here comes a long sampan full of baby perchet on the top of the burden. The net ellow-robed priests, respectfully ferried across bag has a loop, which comes across the top of the Chinamen bathing with the greatest decency and childhood, when the skull bones are soft, a hollow is produced in the skull in which this loop